

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Ruch, et al.  
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING BONES IN A  
HEALING POSITION  
Application No.: 10/712,574  
Filed: November 13, 2003  
Group Art Unit: 3733  
Examiner: Michael J. Araj  
Atty. Docket No.: 24179785.010031

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**ACCOMPANYING AMENDMENT**

**I. Introductory Comments**

The present paper is being submitted along with a Request for Continued Examination as a result of the Final Office Action mailed October 17, 2007. The accompanying amendments and remarks are responsive to the Office Action. Applicants enclose a Petition for a one-month extension of time making the responsive date February 17, 2008. Applicants thank Examiner Araj for his courtesy during the interview. An interview summary under 37 CFR 1.133(b) is incorporated herein.

**Listing of Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.